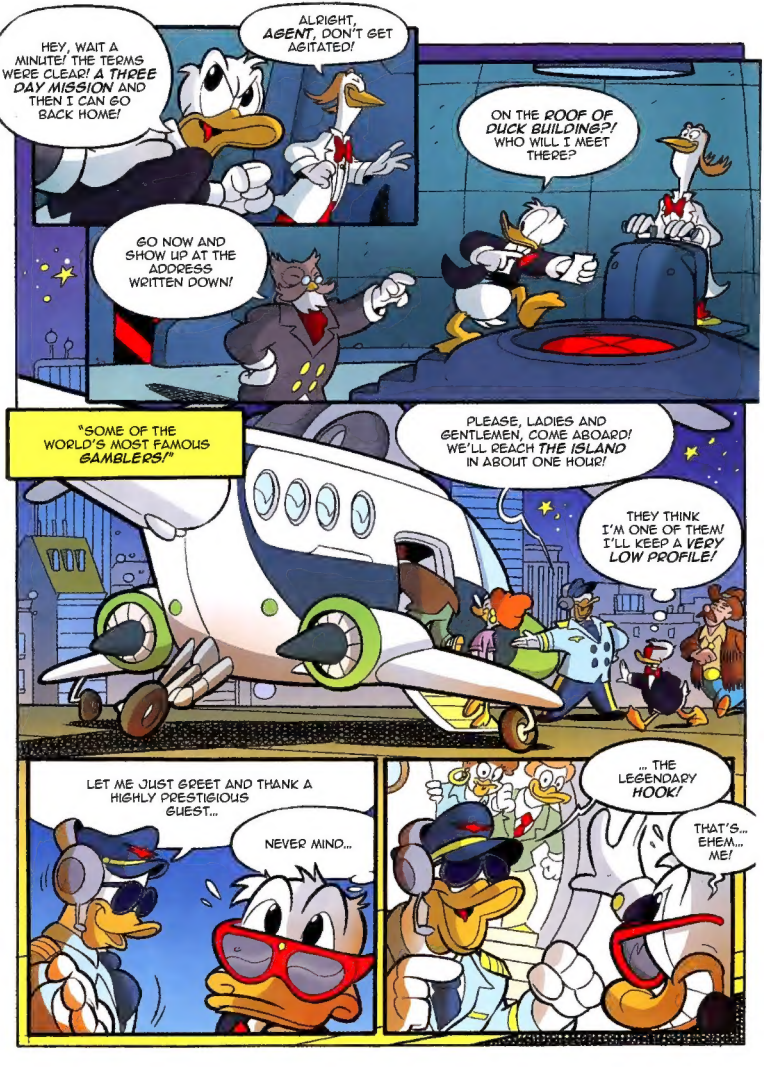
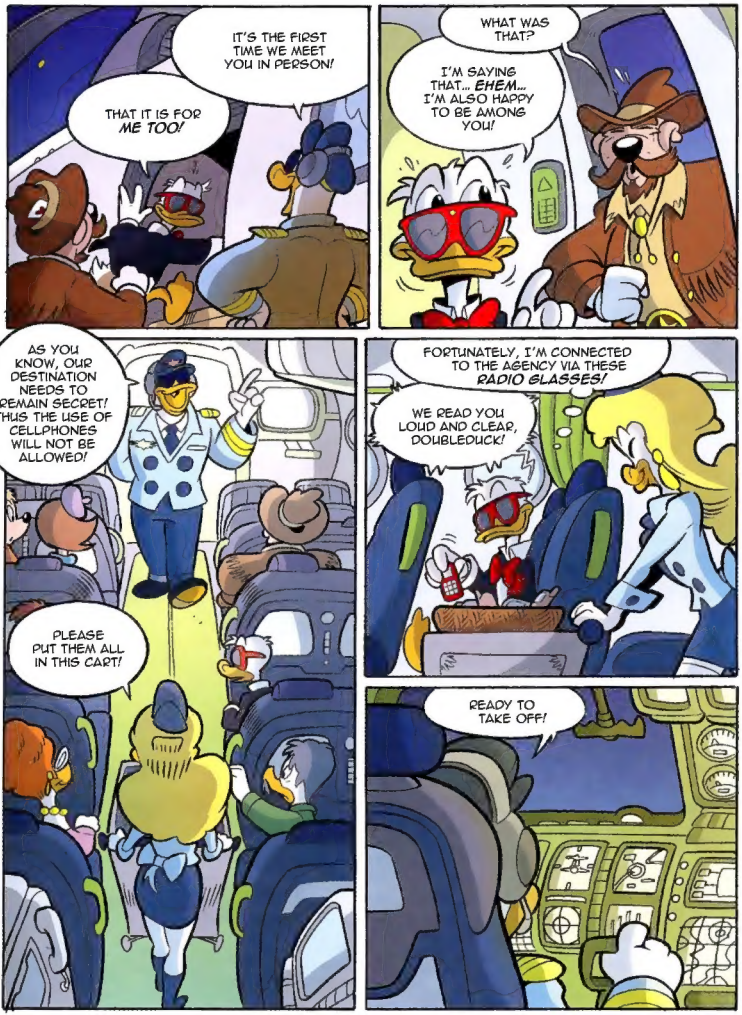
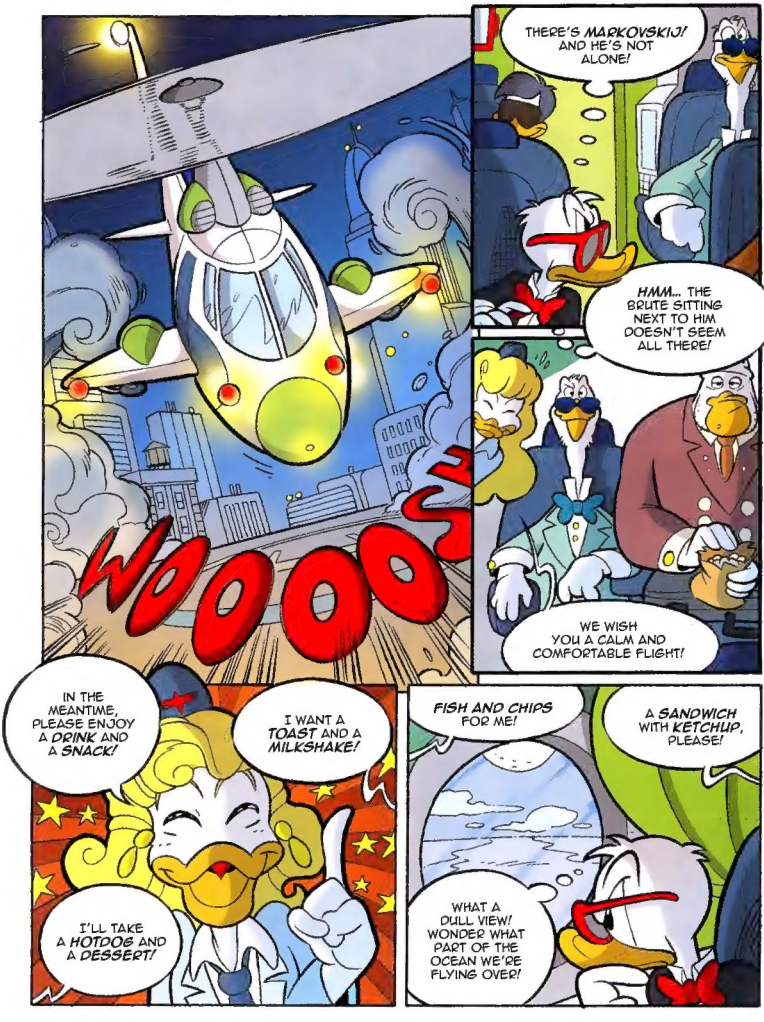
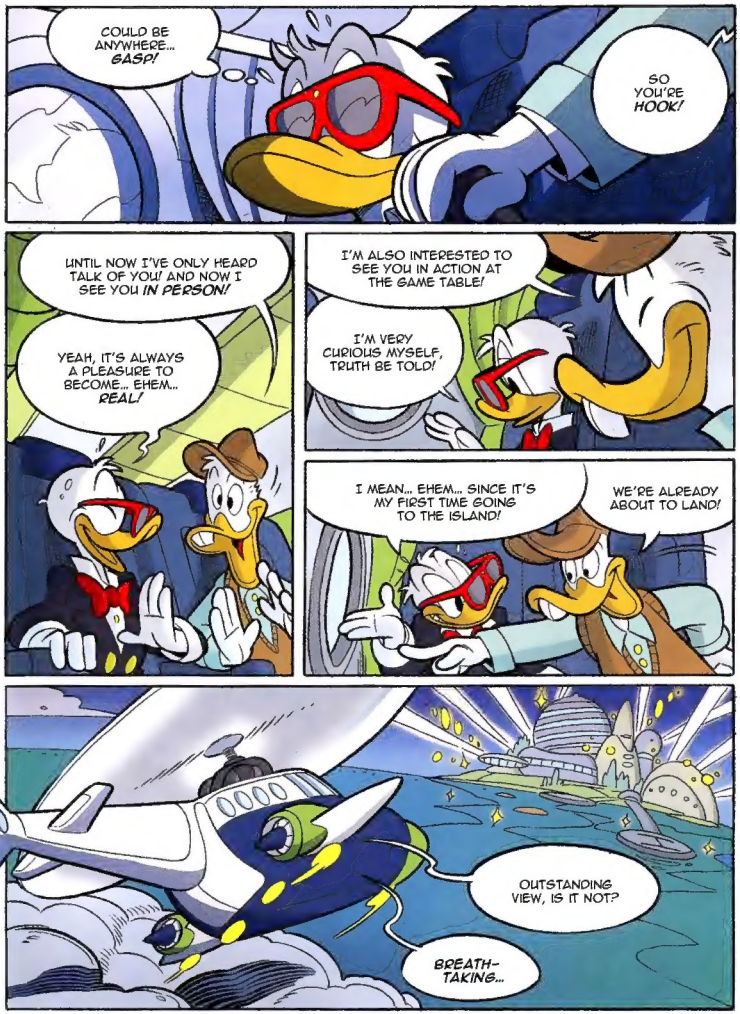
DOUBLEDUCK
una missione lunga tre giorni
episodio 2
I REALLY CAN'T KNOW THE LOCATION OF THIS FAMOUS ISLAND?
AFRAID SO, DD!
INFORMATION FOR SECRET AGENTS IS ALWAYS FRAGMENTARY!
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT!
I DON'T WANNA GET USED TO A DAMN THING!
I'M NOT A SECRET AGENT! THIS IS AN ACCIDENTAL AND TEMPORARY SITUATION!
WE'LL SEE!
I-2868-1

Testo di **Fausto Vitaliano** - Disegni di **Lorenzo Pastrovicchio**
Supervisione colore di **Max Monteduro**

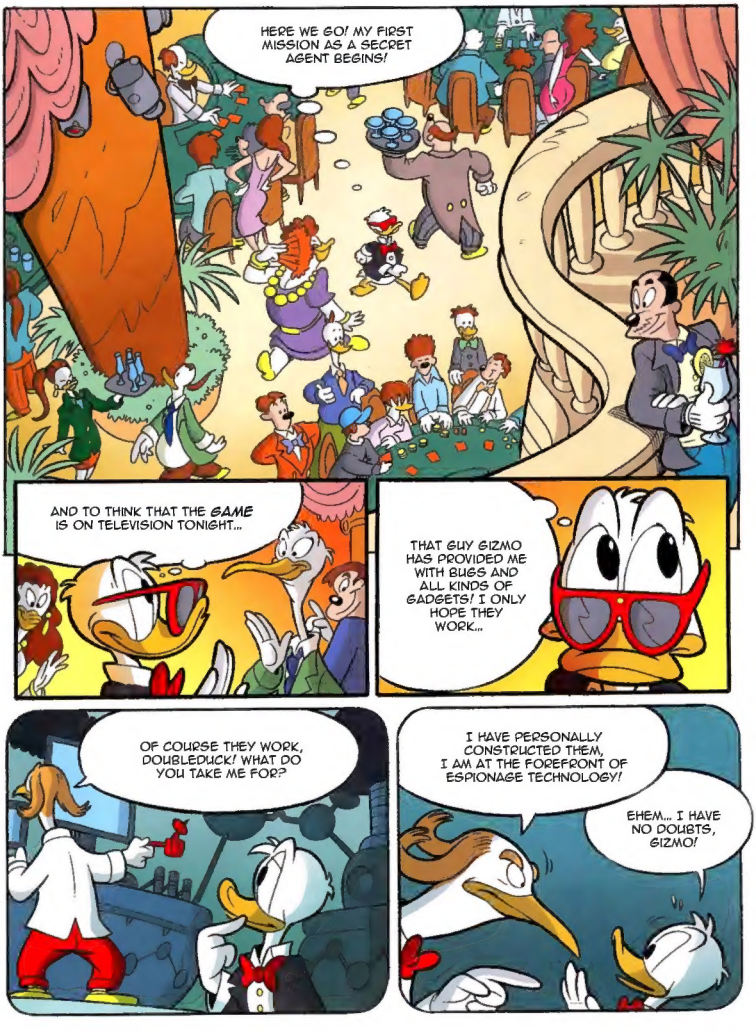

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THE TERMS WERE CLEAR! A THREE DAY MISSION AND THEN I CAN GO BACK HOME!
ALRIGHT, AGENT, DON'T GET AGITATED!
ON THE ROOF OF DUCK BUILDING?! WHO WILL I MEET THERE?
GO NOW AND SHOW UP AT THE ADDRESS WRITTEN DOWN!
"SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS GAMBLERS!"
PLEASE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, COME ABOARD! WE'LL REACH THE ISLAND IN ABOUT ONE HOUR!
THEY THINK I'M ONE OF THEM! I'LL KEEP A VERY LOW PROFILE!
LET ME JUST GREET AND THANK A HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS GUEST...
NEVER MIND...
... THE LEGENDARY HOOK!
THAT'S... EHEM... ME!

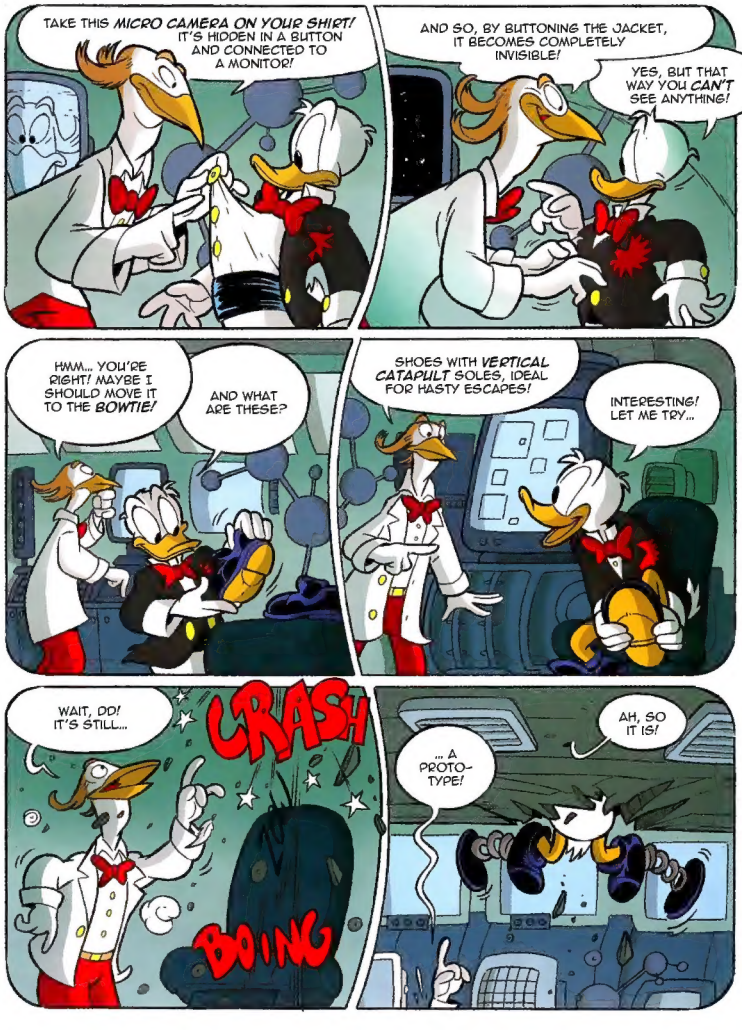

IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE MEET YOU IN PERSON!
THAT IT IS FOR ME TOO!
WHAT WAS THAT?
I'M SAYING THAT... EHEM... I'M ALSO HAPPY TO BE AMONG YOU!
AS YOU KNOW, OUR DESTINATION NEEDS TO REMAIN SECRET! THUS THE USE OF CELLPHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED!
PLEASE PUT THEM ALL IN THIS CART!
FORTUNATELY, I'M CONNECTED TO THE AGENCY VIA THESE RADIO GLASSES!
WE READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, DOUBLEDUCK!
READY TO TAKE OFF!

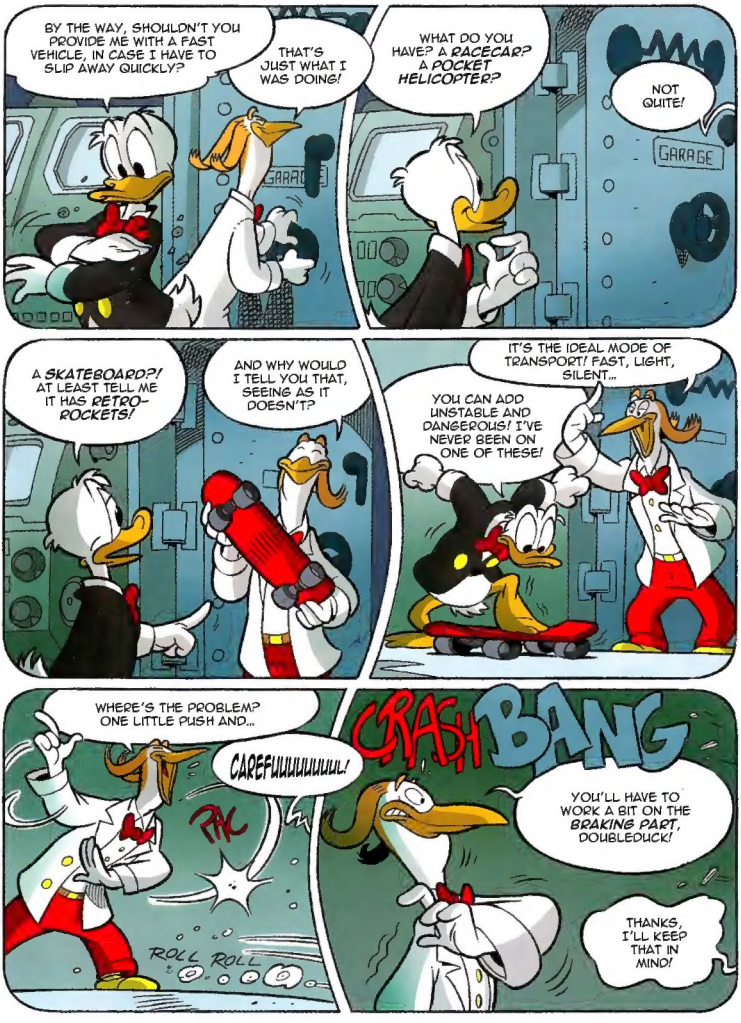

THERE'S MARKOVSKIJ! AND HE'S NOT ALONE!
HMM... THE BRUTE SITTING NEXT TO HIM DOESN'T SEEM ALL THERE!
WE WISH YOU A CALM AND COMFORTABLE FLIGHT!
WOOOSH
IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE ENJOY A DRINK AND A SNACK!
I WANT A TOAST AND A MILKSHAKE!
I'LL TAKE A HOTDOG AND A DESSERT!
FISH AND CHIPS FOR ME!
A SANDWICH WITH KETCHUP, PLEASE!
WHAT A DULL VIEW! WONDER WHAT PART OF THE OCEAN WE'RE FLYING OVER!


COULD BE ANYWHERE... GASP!
SO YOU'RE HOOK!
UNTIL NOW I'VE ONLY HEARD TALK OF YOU! AND NOW I SEE YOU IN PERSON!
YEAH, IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO BECOME... EHEM... REAL!
I'M ALSO INTERESTED TO SEE YOU IN ACTION AT THE GAME TABLE!
I'M VERY CURIOUS MYSELF, TRUTH BE TOLD!
I MEAN... EHEM... SINCE IT'S MY FIRST TIME GOING TO THE ISLAND!
WE'RE ALREADY ABOUT TO LAND!
OUTSTANDING VIEW, IS IT NOT?
BREATH-TAKING...

WELCOME! I AM BERRY BENEDICT, OWNER OF THE ISLAND!
AND YOU ARE THE LEGENDARY HOOK!
SO THEY KEEP SAYING! I'VE BECOME CONVINCED OF THAT MYSELF...
I WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN I LEARNED THAT YOU WOULD BE WITH US!
THE SURPRISE IS MUTUAL.
IN ANY CASE, OUR TABLES AWAIT YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO START WITH? ROULETTE? BACCARAT? CHEMIN DE FER?
WHERE'S THE TOMBOLA?
THE TOMBOLA?
EXACTLY! PERHAPS YOU KNOW IT BY ITS OTHER NAME, BINGO!
HA HA HA! YOU HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR, I SEE! YOU'RE A REALLY FUNNY GUY!
YEAH, I'M TOLD THAT BY... OUCH... EVERYONE!


HERE WE GO! MY FIRST MISSION AS A SECRET AGENT BEGINS!
AND TO THINK THAT THE *GAME* IS ON TELEVISION TONIGHT...
THAT GUY GIZMO HAS PROVIDED ME WITH BUGS AND ALL KINDS OF GADGETS! I ONLY HOPE THEY WORK...
OF COURSE THEY WORK, DOUBLEDUCK! WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
I HAVE PERSONALLY CONSTRUCTED THEM, I AM AT THE FOREFRONT OF ESPIONAGE TECHNOLOGY!
EHEM... I HAVE NO DOUBTS, GIZMO!


TAKE THIS MICRO CAMERA ON YOUR SHIRT! IT'S HIDDEN IN A BUTTON AND CONNECTED TO A MONITOR!
AND SO, BY BUTTONING THE JACKET, IT BECOMES COMPLETELY INVISIBLE!
YES, BUT THAT WAY YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT! MAYBE I SHOULD MOVE IT TO THE BOWTIE!
AND WHAT ARE THESE?
SHOES WITH VERTICAL CATAPULT SOLES, IDEAL FOR HASTY ESCAPES!
INTERESTING! LET ME TRY...
WAIT, DD! IT'S STILL...
CRASH
BOING
... A PROTO-TYPE!
AH, SO IT IS!

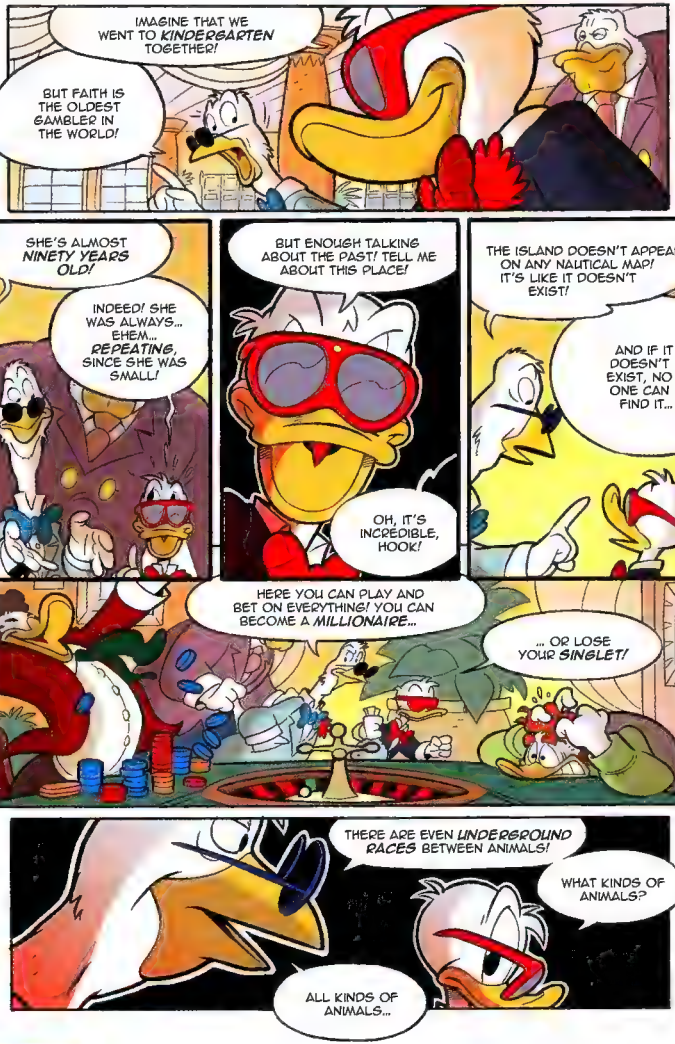

BY THE WAY, SHOULDN'T YOU PROVIDE ME WITH A FAST VEHICLE, IN CASE I HAVE TO SLIP AWAY QUICKLY?
THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS DOING!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE? A RACECAR? A POCKET HELICOPTER?
NOT QUITE!
GARAGE
A SKATEBOARD?! AT LEAST TELL ME IT HAS RETRO-ROCKETS!
AND WHY WOULD I TELL YOU THAT, SEEING AS IT DOESN'T?
IT'S THE IDEAL MODE OF TRANSPORT! FAST, LIGHT, SILENT...
YOU CAN ADD UNSTABLE AND DANGEROUS! I'VE NEVER BEEN ON ONE OF THESE!
WHERE'S THE PROBLEM? ONE LITTLE PUSH AND...
CAREFUUUUUUUL!
PAC
ROLL ROLL
CRASH BANG
YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK A BIT ON THE BRAKING PART, DOUBLEDUCK!
THANKS, I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!

THE DIRECTOR TOLD ME TO GO TO THE BLACKJACK TABLE!
WANNA PLAY?
AND HERE'S THE GUY THAT EXPLAINED TO THE ITALIANS WHAT IN THE WORLD BLACKJACK IS
I HAVE TO TURN ON THE COMPUTER HIDDEN IN THE GLASSES...
... AND LET THE SOFTWARE CALCULATE THE PROBABILITY! THAT WAY I'LL WIN FOR SURE!
HIT ME!
TWENTY-ONE! HOOK WINS, BANK LOSES!
THESE THINGS HAPPEN!
CIAF
HIT ME!
TWENTY-ONE!
CIAF
HIT ME!
TWENTY-ONE!
HMM... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OVER THERE!
CIAF

I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE BLACKJACK TABLE! YOU GO CHANGE YOUR SUIT; IT'S A TAD BIT TOO *TIGHT!*
SORRY, THERE ARE NO BIGGER SIZES!
SIT DOWN, MARKOVSKIJ! ORDERS ARE THAT YOU REMAIN AT THE ROULETTE!
I DECIDE WHERE I PLAY, *PRIMATE!* LET GO!
HIT ME!
TWENTY-ONE!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST STAY TWO STEPS AWAY FROM ME?
MY JOB IS TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU! REMEMBER THAT!
AND REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT PLAYING WITH YOUR MONEY!
AND YOU REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE A BIG BOTHER!
WHAT INCREDIBLE *LUCK!*
TWENTY-ONE! HOOK WINS, BANK LOSES!
HOOK? HMM...
TSK... *NATURAL TALENT*, I'D SAY!

MAY I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
BE MY GUEST!
THE FISH HAS TAKEN THE BAIT!
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM...
... MARKOVSKIJ! I KNOW YOU WELL, THOUGH ONLY BY FAME!
I'M FLATTERED! THE GREAT HOOK KNOWS MY NAME!
IN OUR ENVIRONMENT, EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE!
YOU, THOUGH, I KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT! THERE WERE RUMORS THAT YOU WEREN'T EVEN REAL!
AND YET HERE I AM! SO, DEAR COLLEAGUE, HOW'S THE GAME GOING?
NOT WELL, MY FRIEND! BUT YOU'RE ON TOP OF IT, AS IT APPEARS!
HIT ME!
TWENTY-ONE! HOOK WINS, BANK LOSES!
LET'S SAY THAT YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN!

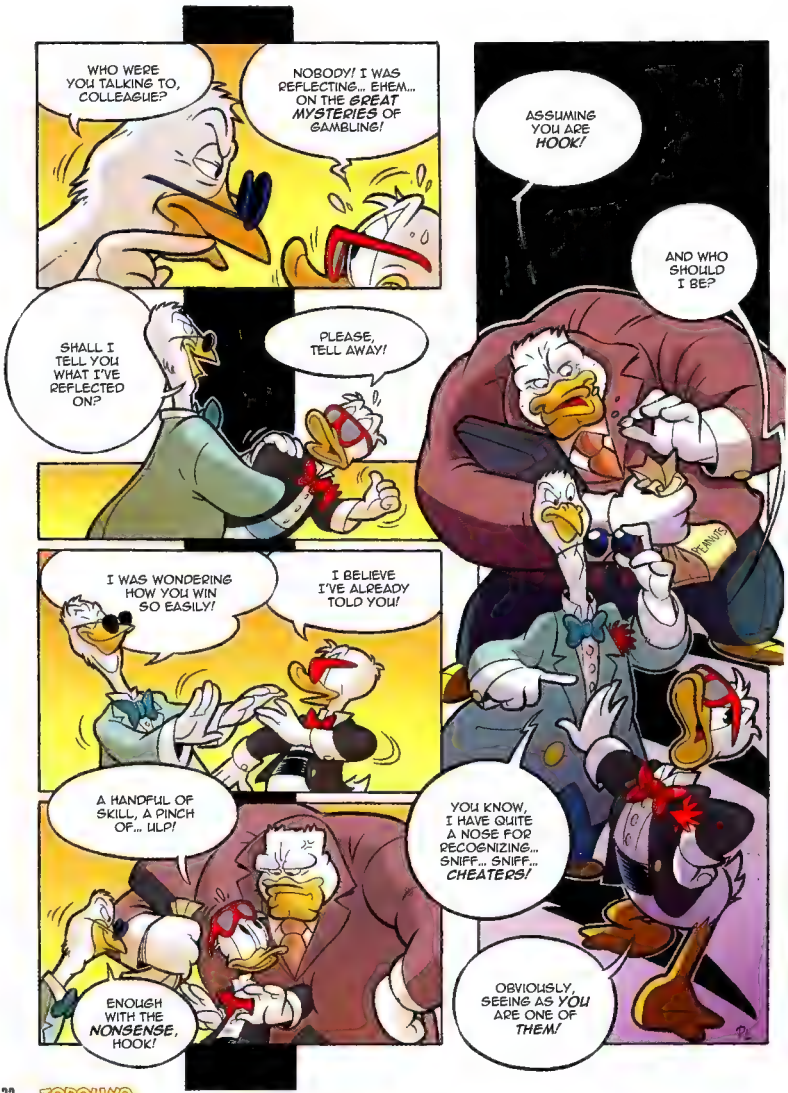
TELL ME, WHAT'S YOUR RECIPE?
A HANDFUL OF SKILL, A PINCH OF FOCUS AND A TOUCH OF LUCK!
CREDIT ALSO GOES TO THIS PLACE, WHICH EVIDENTLY SUITS ME! THIS IS FOR YOU!
MERCI, MONSIEUR!
SWISS
IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE COME TO THE ISLAND?
THAT'S RIGHT! NOT A BAD PLACE!
WHO POINTED YOU HERE? IT'S A SUPER-SECRET PLACE, ONLY A FEW CAREFULLY CHOSEN PLAYERS KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE!
SEEING AS I'M FAMOUS...
FAITH?
THAT'S HIM!
FAITH'S A WOMAN!
THAT'S HER!
YOU'VE KNOWN HER LONG?
PRACTICALLY FOREVER!

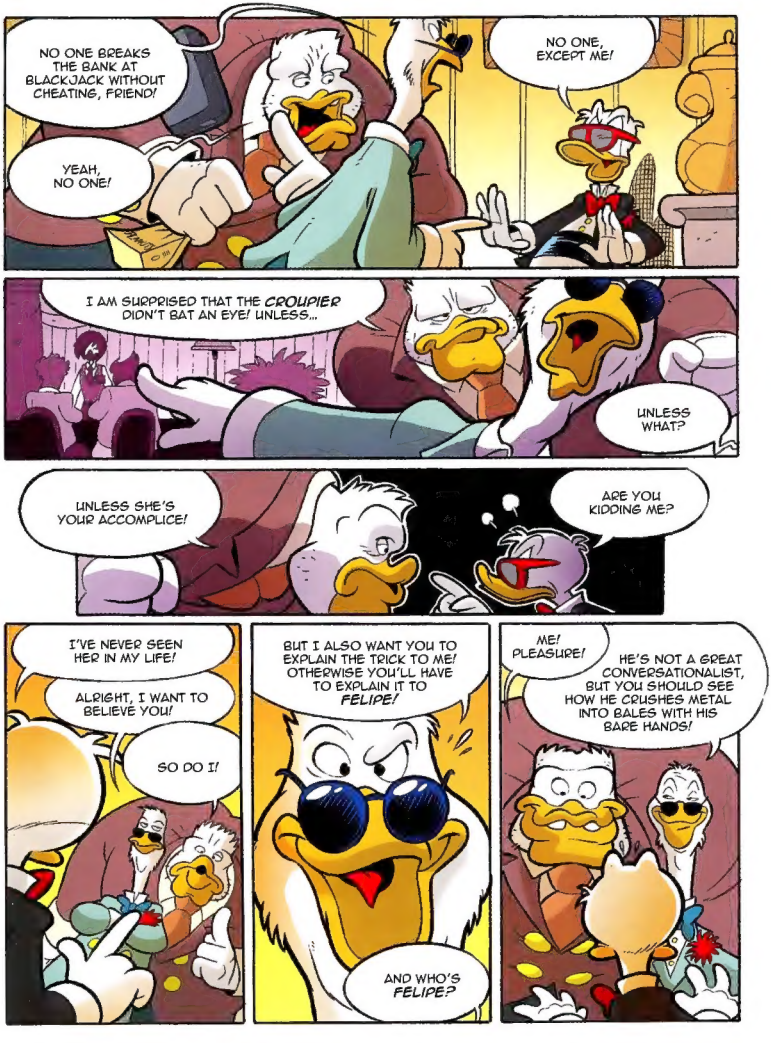

IMAGINE THAT WE WENT TO KINDERGARTEN TOGETHER!
BUT FAITH IS THE OLDEST GAMBLER IN THE WORLD!
SHE'S ALMOST NINETY YEARS OLD!
INDEED! SHE WAS ALWAYS... EHEM... REPEATING, SINCE SHE WAS SMALL!
BUT ENOUGH TALKING ABOUT THE PAST! TELL ME ABOUT THIS PLACE!
OH, IT'S INCREDIBLE, HOOK!
THE ISLAND DOESN'T APPEAR ON ANY NAUTICAL MAP! IT'S LIKE IT DOESN'T EXIST!
AND IF IT DOESN'T EXIST, NO ONE CAN FIND IT...
HERE YOU CAN PLAY AND BET ON EVERYTHING! YOU CAN BECOME A MILLIONAIRE...
... OR LOSE YOUR SINGLET!
THERE ARE EVEN UNDERGROUND RACES BETWEEN ANIMALS!
WHAT KINDS OF ANIMALS?
ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS...

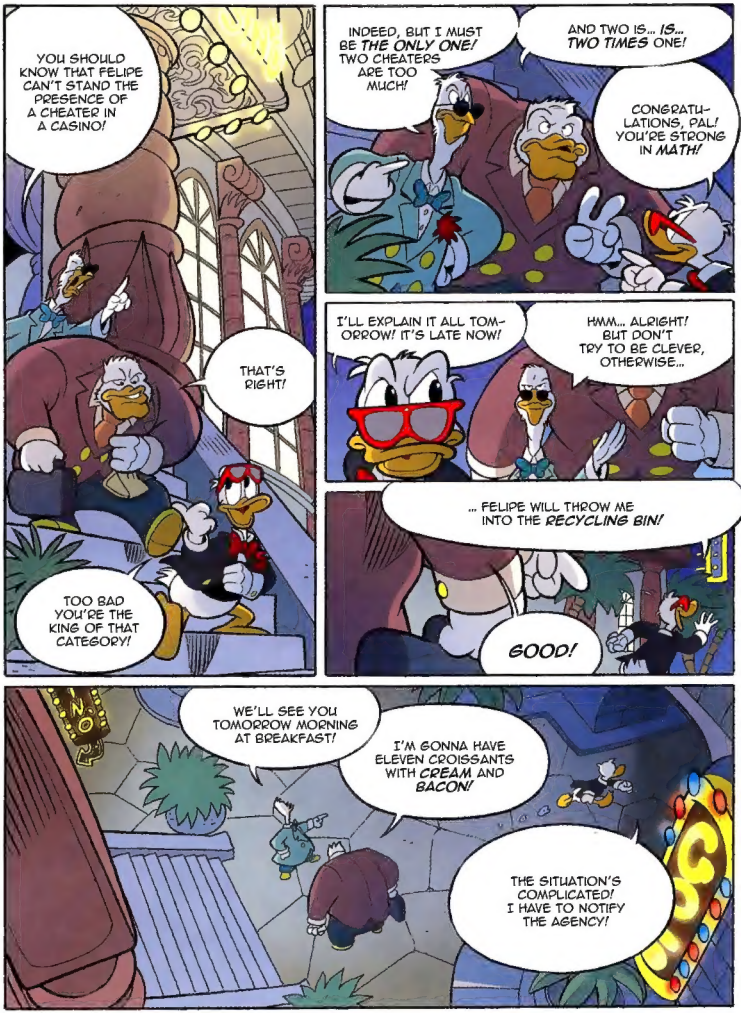
"... PROVIDED THEY'RE RARE!"
MOVE IT, THE TRACK IS WAITING!
LET'S SEE WHO'S THE FASTEST BETWEEN YOU TWO!
THE TRACK IS LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE ISLAND! EVERY MONTH COMES NEW SPECIES OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS!
THE ANIMALS ARE KEPT IN CAGES AND RELEASED ONLY FOR THE RACE!
I HAVE THE FEELING THIS IS SLIGHTLY ILLEGAL! WHAT SAY YOU?
LOOK AROUND YOU! DOES IT SEEM LIKE ILLEGALITY IS THE MAIN PROBLEM HERE?
YEAH... BUT NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU, DEAR MARKOVSKIJ!
AS WELL AS YOU, COLLEAGUE! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

I HAVE THE IMPRESSION YOU'VE COME TO THE ISLAND WITH A DECENT NEST EGG AT DISPOSITION!
YOU CAN SAY THAT!
IN THAT BRIEFCASE THERE'S ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
AND IT'S MY TASK TO MAKE IT ONE HUNDRED MILLION!
FOR A PLAYER LIKE YOU, ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE! HOW MUCH IS YOUR PERCENTAGE?
TEN PERCENT EXCLUDING VAT!
NOT INCLUDING EXPENSES, THEN.
I BET HE DOESN'T EVEN WRITE A BILL!
I TAKE IT THOSE AREN'T YOUR SAVINGS! WHO'S FINANCING YOU?
MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, HOOK, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO WITH THE NINETY MILLION I'LL GET HIM! AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN KNOWING!

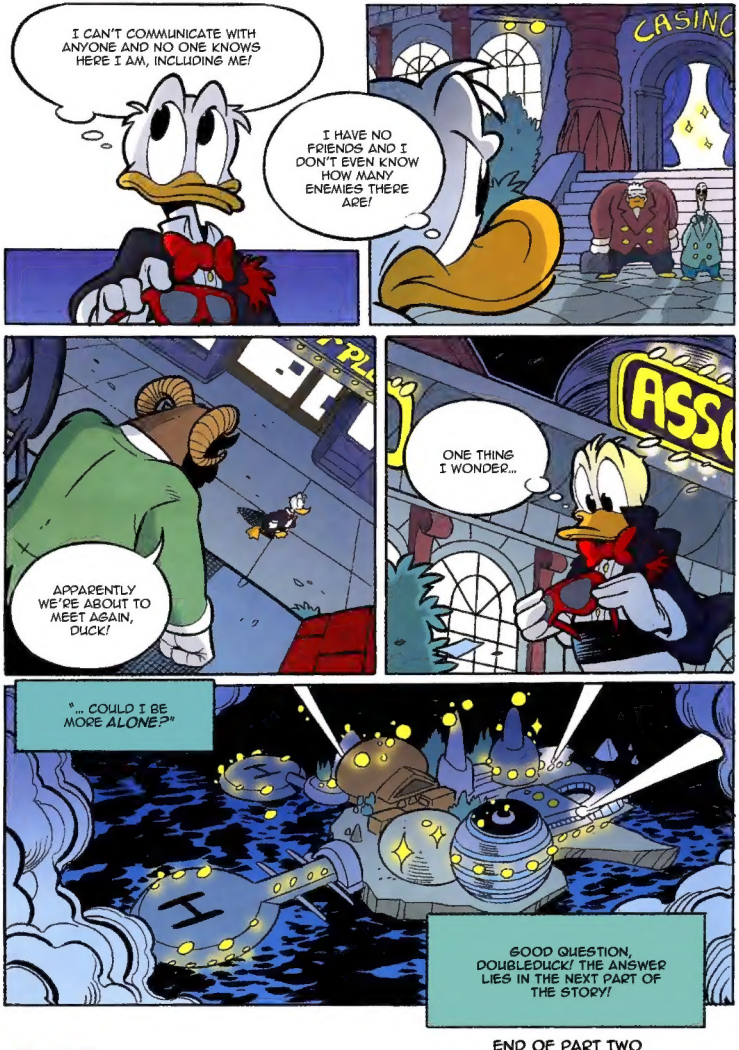
I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN MY PERCENTAGE!
EXCUSE ME!
BRIP BRIP
I THINK I... EHEM... JUST SAW SOMEONE I KNOW!
GO AHEAD...
IF THEY DISCOVERED MY TELEGLASSES, I'D BE A GONER!
DO YOU HEAR ME, DOUBLE-DUCK?
LOUD AND CLEAR, DIRECTOR!
WE'VE FOUND OUT WHO'S HIRED MARKOVSKI!
LET'S HEAR IT!
AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL CARTEL! THEY CALL THEMSELVES "THE ORGANIZ-ATION"!
NICE NAME! GOES HAND IN HAND WITH "AGENCY"!
THEY'RE VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
I'LL SHUT THEM AS LITTLE AS NECESSARY! OVER AND OUT!


WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO, COLLEAGUE?
NOBODY! I WAS REFLECTING... EHEM... ON THE *GREAT MYSTERIES* OF GAMBLING!
ASSUMING YOU ARE *HOOK!*
AND WHO SHOULD I BE?
SHALL I TELL YOU WHAT I'VE REFLECTED ON?
PLEASE, TELL AWAY!
I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU WIN SO EASILY!
I BELIEVE I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU!
A HANDFUL OF SKILL, A PINCH OF... ULP!
YOU KNOW, I HAVE QUITE A NOSE FOR RECOGNIZING... SNIFF... SNIFF... *CHEATERS!*
ENOUGH WITH THE *NONSENSE*, HOOK!
OBVIOUSLY, SEEING AS *YOU* ARE ONE OF *THEM!*


NO ONE BREAKS THE BANK AT BLACKJACK WITHOUT CHEATING, FRIEND!
YEAH, NO ONE!
NO ONE, EXCEPT ME!
I AM SURPRISED THAT THE CROUPIER DIDN'T BAT AN EYE! UNLESS...
UNLESS WHAT?
UNLESS SHE'S YOUR ACCOMPLICE!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER IN MY LIFE!
ALRIGHT, I WANT TO BELIEVE YOU!
SO DO I!
BUT I ALSO WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN THE TRICK TO ME! OTHERWISE YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT TO FELIPE!
AND WHO'S FELIPE?
ME! PLEASURE!
HE'S NOT A GREAT CONVERSATIONALIST, BUT YOU SHOULD SEE HOW HE CRUSHES METAL INTO BALES WITH HIS BARE HANDS!


YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT FELIPE CAN'T STAND THE PRESENCE OF A CHEATER IN A CASINO!
THAT'S RIGHT!
TOO BAD YOU'RE THE KING OF THAT CATEGORY!
INDEED, BUT I MUST BE THE ONLY ONE! TWO CHEATERS ARE TOO MUCH!
AND TWO IS... IS... TWO TIMES ONE!
CONGRATULATIONS, PAL! YOU'RE STRONG IN MATH!
I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TOMORROW! IT'S LATE NOW!
HMM... ALRIGHT! BUT DON'T TRY TO BE CLEVER, OTHERWISE...
... FELIPE WILL THROW ME INTO THE RECYCLING BIN!
GOOD!
WE'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW MORNING AT BREAKFAST!
I'M GONNA HAVE ELEVEN CROISSANTS WITH CREAM AND BACON!
THE SITUATION'S COMPLICATED! I HAVE TO NOTIFY THE AGENCY!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, DOUBLEDUCK!
WHAT'S GOING ON, AGENT?
SOMETHING UNEXPECTED...
FARAON!
MARKOVSKIJ HAS FOUND ME OUT AND... HELLO... HELLO...
CLIC
CONNECTION TERMINATED
COMMUNICATION'S CUT OFF! IT CAN'T BE BY CHANCE...
NO, DOUBLEDUCK, IT'S NOT BY CHANCE!


I CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE AND NO ONE KNOWS HERE I AM, INCLUDING ME!
I HAVE NO FRIENDS AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY ENEMIES THERE ARE!
CASINO
APPARENTLY WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET AGAIN, DUCK!
ONE THING I WONDER...
"... COULD I BE MORE ALONE?"
GOOD QUESTION, DOUBLEDUCK! THE ANSWER LIES IN THE NEXT PART OF THE STORY!

END OF PART TWO